Issue 47

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Kaleidoscope

The Various Hues of Deepanam

Does a Person need a Classroom to be a Teacher?
-Aaryan

How can Teachers inspire Students to be better Citizens of the World?
-Tara

1-4 Fopes opinion
5 Book review
6-7 Trip to the moon
8-13 Topics related to education
14-16 Teachers day
17 Podcast
18-19 Recipe
20-21 Green column
21 Movie review
22 poem

EDITORIAL

This issue we weren't able to continue the story from the last issue because of a little miscommunication, so sorry. we do have an amazing cupcake recipe, an article on the Chandrayaan 3 which we should have done last issue and we have a few articles on teachers day at our school. we really hope you enjoy the issue, byec

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FOPES =
Hope + Faith

FOPE'S OPINION

Where would you like to live when you grow up?

Luce

If I had to choose a place right now, then I would probably choose Italy. Italy is one of the nicest places to live in, actually it depends where you're going. It can have the nicest beaches ever or the most amazing mountain ranges for trekking and I already know the language so it would be perfect. All of my grandparents live in Italy, so it would also be really nice and easy to visit them once in a while. I've been to Italy quite a few times and I would always have the time of my life whenever I went.

There are lotsssss of other places to live in, but I would absolutely love to live in Italy. Auroville is also an amazing place, but it's also nice and important to have a little bit of a change sometimes.

Abhi

So where would I want to live in the future? So this decision i will base it entirely on my football, so based on that I would want to live in Liverpool, England. Firstly Liverpool Football Club is my favourite team, and it is one of the friendliest cities in the world. It is a haven for families and also for professionals. It's also close to London (the capital of England) which is very rich in culture and heritage. I would like to visit London sometimes and experience the city and watch some more games of the teams of London. This also paves my way to try studying in two of the biggest universities in the world (Oxford and Cambridge)

Tara

if I could choose anywhere to live when I'm older I'd probably want to live somewhere in Italy, France or Australia. I'd want to live away from a big city but not too far away because I need supplies for on daily basis, I'd want to live somewhere where when there's summer it's not to hot but obviously not cold I'd want to live somewhere where thIe winters aren't deadly and there's mostly always cool and fresh breeze. And lastly I'd want to live somewhere next to my friends.

Aaryan

I would like to live in Germany. The climate there is neither too hot nor too cold. Also, I would like to work in one of the car factories and get my career of automobile engineering going. Also the quality of life in Germany is pretty good and it's not too expensive. There are also many forests and mountains so I would probably live there next to nature.

Aarohi

I would want to live in Japan because first off their culture is so beautiful and their festivals are amazing. I'm not saying I hate my country I just want to stay somewhere else, also I really like the language it’s just so nice and I just like the way it is, I hope to learn it one day even though the letters are pretty complicated, so is the language and grammar but it’s fine. Also I absolutely love the food, I adore the food, savory, sweet all the food looks so good and I really want to go and eat that, and the clothes there are so pretty and they look so comfortable like the kimono. Japan is also very futuristic if you ask me there have been a lot of things Japan has done that are futuristic, also it's one of the top twenty safest countries ever so that's where I want to live when I grow up.

Sara

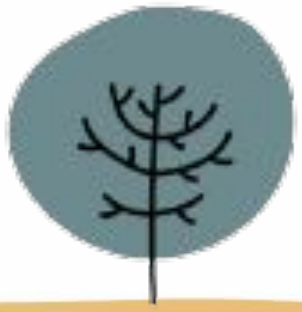
I really don't know where I would like to live in the future and I am happy with it being like that .I would ideally like to travel. At Least before becoming old and weird.
But if I had to settle down somewhere it would most probably be 1st of all in India and second in a colder region. So that would be the Himalayas. I have always enjoyed trekking and feeling cold.
I am not sure but this is where I picture myself living

Meet

If I could live anywhere when I grow up,I would like to live in Switzerland. The reason for this choice is that Switzerland is known for having one of the lowest crime rates and for producing some of the world’s best chocolate. Also it is renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, including caves, waterfalls, glaciers, and forests. I would prefer to live near the Alps, the highest mountain range in Europe so it's not too hot during the summer, and I could enjoy skiing during the winter. And I hope in the future the vehicles in Switzerland can be powered by electricity so that the air remains clean, and there can be strict fines on anyone who litters.

Lea

I want to live in a place where everyone is equal when I grow up. People will respect each other, and can communicate freely. There will be no misunderstanding between people, health care is guaranteed so that all people can live healthily, educational opportunities are provided equally, where people won't be treated differently according to their working skills and animals should not suffer from humans. I think people really have to take responsibility for our planet too. So where I want to live people use less plastic and chemical stuff, they all use glass or stainless cups and plates at home or in restaurant take out. On the street there will be dustbins that are easy to find. And people ride buses or cycle instead of using their own cars or bikes. Then there would be less pollution. Animals can live in clean water and waste free land. So it would be good for us and the animals!



Isha

When I grow up, I want to live on a small island where I am the only person there. The size of the island will be just a little bit bigger than my house which will also be pretty small, so it won't be very expensive. I want to live alone because I like the sense of calmness and freedom. I will also have a small boat because I will need to go outside but I will spend most of my time on the island. The Island will be quite close to the mainland because I might have an emergency and need to go to the mainland immediately. I will have a small garden and a small pond on my island because those are some things I want.

Oli

If I had to choose one place to live I would probably want go on some big trip to many different places to decide and look around for a place I would want to live. That trip would probably be around southern Europe where it doesn't get much hotter than 35 degrees celsius and isn't too humid (anything's better than Auroville's humidity). I would want to live somewhere with beaches, mountains and rivers all nearby but pretty far away from any big cities. I would want to live in a quiet house where you could hear the birds singing and maybe a cool, fresh stream guzzling nearby with smooth rocks tumbling about. In the morning and afternoons sunlight would fall in through the windows like sand in an hourglass and I could be outside in my garden taking it all in. I would want my house to be nostalgic and old in all the best ways with a creak in the floorboards and an attic with a ton of hidden secrets from all around the world, covered in dust. It would still be small with a bedroom, a bathroom, a kitchen and a living room with a fold-out sofa.It would be my house and just, exactly where I want to live.

Vihaan

Dubai is an amazing city in a faraway place called the United Arab Emirates. It's like a dream city, and I've always wished to live there for some very cool reasons.

Firstly, Dubai is a land of great opportunities. It's like a city where lots of businesses do really well, and that means there are plenty of job options. Dubai's awesome location, no taxes, and really good buildings and roads have made people and companies from all over the world come here. I want to do well in my job when I grow up, and Dubai seems like a place where that can happen.

Dubai is also like a big mix of cultures. People from all around the world live here, and they bring their own traditions, languages, and foods. Living in such a diverse place would be like a big adventure, where I can learn about different cultures and all the cool things they do.

They love new ideas and technology in Dubai. They use smart ideas and new technology for many things, which makes life really easy and fun. I love cool new things, and living in a place that's always trying to make life better sounds really exciting.

Life in Dubai is super nice. They have really good doctors and hospitals, schools where you can learn a lot, and loads of fun things to do. You can relax on beautiful beaches, stay in fancy hotels, and have lots of fun. Plus, it's a very safe place to live, which is really important, especially if you have a family.

Dubai's buildings are incredibly tall, like the Burj Khalifa, which is the tallest in the world. These amazing buildings have always fascinated me, and waking up to those incredible views every day would be like a dream come true.

Lastly, Dubai cares a lot about the environment. They're working really hard to protect the planet by doing things that are good for nature, like using clean energy and making eco-friendly neighborhoods. This is important because I want to live in a place that takes care of our planet's future.

With its mix of cultures, love for innovation, great quality of life, tall buildings, and care for the environment, Dubai seems like the perfect place for me to grow up and have exciting adventures. It's like a city where dreams can come true, and that's why I dream of calling Dubai my home.

BOOK REVIEW: THE LOST HERO

The lost hero is the first book in a five book series called heroes of Olympus, this series is a continuation of the Percy Jackson books. Here a sixteen year old boy named Jason wakes up on a school bus with no recollection of who or where he is. Jason and his two new friends Leo and Piper are led to camp half-blood by Greek demigods where they find out the magical world exists. Camp Half-blood is in the middle of a crisis when they arrive as their greatest hero has gone missing! this hero happens to be Percy Jackson. Strange things are going on with the Greek gods;

Rick Riordan once again surprises us with his ability to turn ancient mythology into a simple children's book. This time he involves even more than just ancient Greece, what sort of mess has he gotten the hard working half-bloods into this time?

They have cut all connections with the camp leaving them helpless until a prophecy is uttered for our new demigods. The trio go on a dangerous quest to rescue Hera, queen of the gods! Jason and his friends ride on the back of a giant metal dragon facing many monsters and even gods such as the god of all winds, Aeolus! Venturing halfway across the world to help the great goddess. Even after their quest is done they are not even close to finishing their adventure. In the next books we meet even more new characters. Some will be very helpful and great friends to our trio while others will always stand in their way trying to stop them from succeeding. Will they manage? Or will our new heroes push through and fight till the end?

TRIP TO THE MOON

Chandrayaan-2 was the second lunar exploration mission developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), after Chandrayaan-1. It consisted of a lunar orbiter, and formerly included the Vikram lander and the Pragyan rover, all of which were developed in India. The main scientific objective was to map and study the variations in lunar surface composition, as well as the location and abundance of lunar water.

> In December 2019, ISRO requested the initial funding of the project, amounting to ₹75 crore (US$9.4 million), out of which ₹60 crore (US$7.5 million) would be for meeting expenditure towards machinery, equipment, and other capital expenditure, while the remaining ₹15 crore (US$1.9 million) was sought for operating expenditure. -Wikipedia

The satellite launched on 22 July 2019. The satellite was supposed to land near the south pole. Unfortunately, ISRO lost contact with it during the descent to the surface of the moon at a velocity of 58m/s (210 km/ph) 300m over the moon's surface and the satellite and rover crashed.

The satellite named the Vikram lander was transporting a rover named Pragyan rover which would help the ISRO to study lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, the lunar exosphere, and water ice..

Nearly 4 Years later and the disastrous failure of the Chandrayaan 2, Chandrayaan 3 was launched on 14 July 2023. It was the third lunar mission of ISRO and They successfully landed the lander on 23 August 2023.

The main objective was to study the water ice in the south polar region and thickness of the lunar regolith (a rock chip layer above bedrock) on the surface. They also wanted to map the lunar surface and help to prepare 3D maps of it The Vikram lander is responsible for the soft landing on the Moon. It is also box-shaped, with four landing legs and four landing thrusters capable of producing 800 newtons of thrust each. It carries the rover and various scientific instruments to perform on-site analysis.The lander has four variable-thrust engines with slew rate changing capabilities, unlike Chandrayaan-2's lander, which had five, with the fifth one being centrally mounted and capable only of fixed thrust.

ISRO's mission objectives for the Chandrayaan-3 mission are:

- Engineering and implementing a lander to land safely and softly on the surface of the Moon.

- Observing and demonstrating the rover's driving capabilities on the Moon and, #

- Conducting and observing experiments on the materials available on the lunar surface to better understand the composition of the Moon.

The Pragyan rover is a six-wheeled vehicle with a mass of 26 kilograms (57 pounds). The rover is expected to take multiple measurements to support research into the composition of the lunar surface, the presence of water ice in the lunar soil, the history of lunar impacts, and the evolution of the Moon's atmosphere.After a series of earthbound maneuvers that placed Chandrayaan-3 in a trans-lunar injection orbit, ISRO performed a lunar-orbit insertion (LOI) on 5 August, successfully placing the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into an orbit around the Moon. The LOI operation was carried out from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bangalore On 17 August, the Vikram lander separated from the propulsion module to begin the last phase of the mission. On 23 August 2023, as the lander approached the low point of its orbit, its four engines fired as a braking maneuver at 30 kilometers (19 mi) above the Moon's surface

After 11.5 minutes, the lander was 7.2 km (4.5 miles) above the surface; it maintained this altitude for about 10 seconds, then stabilized itself using eight smaller thrusters and rotated from a horizontal to a vertical position while continuing its descent.

It then used two of its four engines to slow its descent to roughly 150 meters; it hovered there for about 30 seconds and located an optimal landing spot before continuing downward and touching down at 12:33 UTC.

I am extremely proud of India for their accomplishment and how they did not give up after a massive failure. The ISRO team should definitely be given a round of applause and the way they just made the whole project in 4 years, after tremendous testing. I wish India the best of luck for their future missions and I hope they excel in them.

> Congratulating the ISRO team behind the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the touchdown point of the Vikram lander would henceforth be known as Shiv Shakti point. He further declared 23 August, the day the Vikram lander landed on the Moon, as National Space Day.

Our Opinions on Different Topics Related to Education

Parents are the first Teachers for Kids

Parents are the first teachers for kids. They help us learn and grow in many ways. Even before we go to school, they show us what life is all about.

Parents teach us everyday things, like tying our shoes and using forks and spoons, but they're not teaching just that. We also learn from watching them. When we see how they act and how they react to certain situations, we're learning important life lessons. This is called "social learning," and it's a big part of how we become who we are.

Imagine kids are like sponges. We soak up not just what our parents tell us, but also how they act. For example, if we see them handle tough situations or be kind to others, we learn valuable lessons about being strong, solving problems, and showing compassion.

Parents also help us figure out what's right and wrong. They teach us about values, like honesty and helping others. These lessons are like a guide that helps us make good choices as we grow up.

At home, parents set rules for us to follow. This teaches us about being respectful, responsible, and working well with others. These rules are like a roadmap for how to behave, not just at home but also in the bigger world.

The way parents talk to us is really important too. How they speak and the words they use help us learn how to talk and communicate with others. Good communication skills help us make friends and talk to people in different situations.

So, parents are our very first teachers. They teach us not only by telling us things, but also by showing us how to live. We learn about life, relationships, and what's right from them. Their influence goes way beyond school and helps us learn throughout our lives.

-Egor

How can Teachers inspire Students to be better Citizens of the World?

Teachers play a super important role in shaping us kids. They aren't just about teaching math or history, they're also about making us better people and good citizens of the world. So here's how they can inspire us:

First, they should teach us about kindness. It's like the most important thing ever. When teachers are kind to us we learn to be kind to others too. They can tell stories about famous people who did amazing things to help others. It could make us think, hey bro maybe I can do something good too.

Second, teachers can help us understand the world. They can show us maps and talk about different countries, cultures, and languages. It's like a big adventure. When we learn about other places, we become curious and open-minded. We start to appreciate diversity, and that's a big step toward being a good citizen.

Third, they should encourage us to ask questions. When teachers say, "There are no stupid questions, it's awesome. It means we can learn without feeling embarrassed. We learn to be curious and not afraid to speak up, which is important for solving problems in the world.

Another thing is they can teach us about the environment. Climate change and pollution are big issues. Teachers can show us how to take care of our planet by recycling, conserving energy, and planting trees. When we learn to protect the Earth, we become responsible global citizens.

Teachers can also guide us to work together. Group projects teach us teamwork and communication. We learn that when we cooperate, we can achieve bigger goals. It's like a mini lesson in making the world a better place through collaboration.

Lastly, they can be role models. When teachers show integrity, honesty, and respect, we learn from their actions. They become our heroes, and we want to be like them.

In conclusion, teachers have the power to inspire us to be better citizens of the world. Through kindness, knowledge, curiosity, environmental awareness, teamwork, and being good role models, they can help us grow into responsible, caring, and informed individuals who want to make the world a better place.

Tara

What do You think the hardest thing about Teaching is?

For teacher's day we decided to take the teacher's role for the day. It was really fun and challenging at the same time.

I think the hardest thing about teaching is when kids are distracted or when they are not interested in our class. When one kid is distracted suddenly everyone is talking and playing around, and it's so hard and annoying to make them focus on their work again. And when they are not interested in the class they will say "Can we do something else?" or "That's boring." After hearing that from them made me a bit sad, because we were planning and running around to make sure everything was ready so after hearing that it felt like I wasted my time on nothing. But eventually everyone was having fun.

And another thing that was hard was balancing the different learning needs for students.
When some kids don't understand and some kids do then it is so chaotic. Because you have to explain how to do it to the kids who don't understand and when you're explaining the other kids will start playing around and talking. Then you can't listen well because everyone is talking and you can't just yell at them and it was so frustrating.

And explaining you need patience too. You have to have patience because you have to repeat like more than three times or show them an easy way to do it. When I was teaching these students I remembered the teachers that were are teaching us. They were never frustrated or mad when I didn't understand.

Actually, they were calm and showed me how to do it slowly so that I could understand. So I think thinking about how our teacher treated us helped me not to lose my patience.

After this experience I have a new respect for my teachers. Dealing with kids everyday!!!
And I know how it feels when students are not behaving so I think I'll be more focused and behave well in the class, so for the teachers it will be easier to teach us and not get stressed.
I wish teachers in our school is well paid because they are doing such an amazing job that is NOT easy to do.

- Lea

Does a Person need a Classroom to be a Teacher?

Teaching is a super important job, and it's changed a lot recently. We used to think of teachers as people in classrooms, but now, things are different. So, do you really need a classroom to be a teacher? Nope, not at all! One big reason for this change is technology. Think about the internet. It lets teachers reach kids all over the world without ever being in a classroom together. We can learn from online courses, webinars, and educational websites. It's like a new kind of classroom, but without walls!

Also, teachers do more than just teach facts. They help us grow, learn, and become better people. That can happen in lots of places outside a regular classroom. For example, think about your sports coach, music teacher, or even a life coach. They all teach important stuff, but they do it in different places, not just in a classroom.

And guess what? Learning isn't just about school. Your family, friends, and even yourself can be teachers too! Parents and grandparents teach us so many things, even if it's not in a classroom. Learning from them is super important.

Plus, some kids get homeschooled, which means they learn at home with their parents. They don't have a classroom like in school, but their parents are still their teachers. So, you see, you don't always need a classroom to be a teacher.

In the end, the idea of needing a classroom to be a teacher is old-fashioned. Teaching has become more flexible and can happen in many different ways and places. Being a teacher is about helping others learn, grow, and discover new things, no matter where you are. So, anyone can be a teacher, even if there's no classroom involved.

In today's fast-changing world, the role of a teacher has evolved beyond the traditional classroom setting. While classrooms remain essential for formal education, teachers have embraced new ways of imparting knowledge and guiding students' growth. The advent of technology, particularly the internet, has been a game-changer. Online courses, webinars, and educational websites have opened up virtual classrooms that transcend geographical boundaries. Teachers can now connect with students from all around the world, delivering lessons and sharing knowledge without ever being physically present in a traditional classroom.

But being a teacher isn't just about conveying facts and figures. It's about nurturing personal growth, fostering learning, and helping individuals become better versions of themselves. These aspects of teaching can occur in various settings beyond the confines of a classroom. Think about your sports coach, music tutor, or even a life coach. They all play crucial teaching roles, albeit in different environments.

Furthermore, learning is not restricted to school. It happens in our everyday lives and often involves informal educators like family, friends, and even oneself. Parents and grandparents, for instance, teach us valuable life lessons and skills outside the classroom environment. Their teachings are just as significant as what we learn in school.

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Homeschooling is another example that challenges the idea of needing a traditional classroom to be a teacher. Many children are educated at home by their parents, and while there may not be a physical classroom, parents take on the role of educators, guiding their children's education and personal development.
In conclusion, the concept of a physical classroom as a prerequisite for being a teacher is no longer applicable in today's world. Teaching has evolved,becoming more flexible and adaptable to various environments and approaches. Being a teacher goes beyond the classroom's four walls; it's about inspiring, guiding, and facilitating learning wherever it may take place. In our interconnected world,anyone with knowledge, wisdom, and a passion for helping others learn and grow can be a teacher, regardless of whether a traditional classroom is involved or not.

-Aaryan

How can Teachers Promote Gender Equality in their Classrooms?

In Deepanam there isn't really any gender inequality as far as I'd say. But outside of Deepanam in other classrooms around the world and even in some in Auroville I think it is of high necessity to have classes on these sort of taboo topics because they are simply not talked about enough and just ignored for many foolish reasons. A girl shouldn't feel uncomfortable to ask for a period product if she's started her period and I think simply having more education on these topics will make people understand them more and not feel scared about talking about them or even repulsed by them. In Deepanam we have a lot less of that and I think that's mostly because of good education on these topics. When I say taboo topics I'm also referring to different sexualities and even genders, because if we want true gender equality we should accept that there are people who want to be a different gender than they were born with. Also with sexualities, even in Deepanam, I'm hearing lot's of names just being thrown around, like people using the word gay as an insult or saying "that's so gay". Even though most of the time it's in a joking manner. It's still very sad and disheartening to hear and just shows how stupid they are. I guess the main reason it's happening is because someone says it and they may seem popular to another kid, who is younger and doesn't even know what they're talking about and then that just keeps happening in an endless cycle, growing like a disease. While Deepanam is setting a pretty good example so far it can still do better and I hope that it does in the coming years so that it can be an example for other schools around the world and in Auroville.

-Oli

What would happen if your Parents were your Class Teachers?

I probably wouldn't really like it if my parents were my teachers cause honestly it would just be weird. My mom isn't that fluent in English, so I don't know how that would work out for her... and my dad, if he teaches, he goes on and on and on... so he would just go really deep in the topic and never end the class. Isn't it not allowed to have a parent as your teacher anyway? Cause maybe some parents would be a bit biased so yeah. I honestly don't know how I would feel about my parents being my teachers, I would probably be fine with it for like a day, but not as a daily thing. I would probably get kinda sick of it, and be a bit annoyed. But who knows, I would have to be in the moment to actually feel that feeling of my parents being my teachers, cause maybe I would enjoy it, maybe I would not like it at all (probably the second one). It depends, if only one of them would teach it would be like ten times better, but if both of them taught in Deepanam, I actually really wouldn't like it. It depends what they would teach, if my mom taught ATB, I would quite like it since she anyway already taught my class ATB in kindergarten. If my mom taught other subjects like maths, English, and science, I would not enjoy that. Now my dad, I would also quite like it if he taught ATB, but I also wouldn't mind if he taught English or science, just not maths cause just no. I also don't know if my parents would wanna do this as a daily thing, cause I don't think they wanna deal with my classmates everyday soooo yeah, maybe just like two times a week.

-Luce

Teachers Day

This year for teachers day we helped the teachers by stealing their jobs. When I was told we were teaching the kids for half a day I thought it would be simple enough but I was proven wrong.

With the first group we went to Matrimandir. While going there we had a choice of taking the kids by bus but we acted oversmart and decided to take them cycling, which we regretted. Some of them couldn't even cycle since they were in Light group and too young so we had to take them doubles. After getting a lot of “judge” looks we reached the inner chamber and ended up disturbing everyone in the chamber and after quite a lot of embarrassment we came back to school in snack break and then rushed to PTDC to get cookies for the next group for a treasure hunt we had planned. The second group was way easier since they were Peace groupers and older. They behaved pretty well I would say. They also really enjoyed the treasure hunt.

A chaotic day indeed and one thing I learned for sure that day was being a teacher is not as easy as it looks, at all.

-Sara

"Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students." - Solomon Ortiz

I am realizing how much patience teachers need to survive on a daily basis. I was quite nervous this morning coming to school because I really didn't know what to expect and Aarohi was sick so she wouldn't come and it would be just Isha and I. However I was also excited because for quite a while I'd wanted this experience of teaching something to a group of people and the fact that we could choose what we did, how we did it, and when we did it made it so much fun and also just rubs in my face yet again the fact that I'm in 7th grade. Like when I was teaching these kids I would think back to when I was their age, and in so many ways I still feel like I am, so I think that helped a little. It's like talking to my younger self

Then with Light group there were a whole lot more challenges from my point of view. I was expecting them to be easier to handle for some reason, but I think combined with my tiredness from already teaching Peace group I had less patience and would get annoyed.

When I was teaching Peace group I didn't face many challenges and the only one I can really think of right now is, all of us "teachers" not being on the exact same page. Like maybe they would ask one thing to one of us, then to another of us and we would give different answers making them confused; that happened a couple times.

I would get frustrated by them not understanding what I was saying so now I am realizing how much patience teachers need to survive on a daily basis. As unknown as my future is I kind of doubt I would want to be a teacher.

I think I just have different interests and aspirations, but obviously many, many things will change so, you just never ever know.

If I was a student in Peace group I'd say I did a pretty okay job, but if I was in Light group I would probably hope for a different Fope (Faith+Hope) grouper next year... But I am very, very happy I got this experience; it is quite a one-of-a-kind experience to be able to have full control over what you teach and just do, so thank you Deepanam **-Oli**

While teaching I was excited, but nervous. September 5th is Teachers day, where at Deepanam, the oldest kids become the teachers. I myself am one of the oldest kids and I will be telling you about my experience. Me and my group (Tara, Vihaan, and I) had to teach Grace group and Peace A group. We did a scavenger hunt and Matrimandir trip with Grace and Math Bingo with Peace A. While teaching I was excited, but nervous. The biggest challenges I faced was getting the kids to listen and to keep them quiet, but other than that it was pretty smooth sailing. Though this was fun, doing it everyday would be exhausting so I would probably not become a teacher. This Teachers day has made me appreciate how much work teachers do. **-Megha**

This year it was my turn. I had been waiting for this day for like two years and a half. on teachers day in Deepanam, instead of having a normal day at school where the teachers teach, the oldest grades split into groups of around three or four people and then they get to take the teachers' jobs for half of the day. This year it was my turn. I had been waiting for this day for like two years and a half. Vihaan and Megha were in my group and we three had to teach the 6th and 5th graders (Grace group) first and after them we had to teach the 3rd and 4th graders (Peace A). for the Grace groupers we planned to do a scavenger hunt and after go to Matrimandir. While the Grace groupers, Megha and I waited for Vihaan to finish setting the scavenger hunt I played a few games of hangman with them. After they finished the scavenger hunt we went to Matrimandir by bus. The bus ride was pretty loud and very crowded but thankfully no one died and we all got to Matrimandir safely. At Matri we played a few games of werewolf which was very chaotic.After like 45 minutes had passed we went back to school on the bus and our teaching time with the Grace groupers was over. Next we had to teach the Peace groupers. For them we started off with a game of Math Bingo where we ended with three winners. After Math Bingo all the Peace groupers wanted to play hangman so we did quite a bit of that and the last 20 minutes of class we let them do board games and then our teaching time with the Peace groupers was over, Some challenges I faced over the day was the noise and a bit of the cooperation with my team cause for the Peace groupers I felt that I was doing some of the work all alone but in the end we all managed to sort it out together. So over all my teachers day experience was a little annoying and hard but still very fun. And i am so thankful for all my previous and present teachers for putting up with me. **-Tara**

Teens Connect Podcast

Episode 7

This is a brief of the podcast from Luce and Lea. It was our first podcast. We were quite nervous, excited and curious on how the podcast would go. It was a mixed bag of emotions. We interviewed Mahi. She is a teacher in Transition school for 15 years. She also takes part in taking care of the horses in Baraka.

The podcast started with us asking her how she came to Auroville and why she came. She told us how she graduated from Transition school and went to Last School. After she dropped out of Last School she went to French Lycee.

After graduating she went to America for university and she learned Science, Math, English and Psychology. We asked her why she came back from America after graduating. She told us that Auroville was home for her. After coming she volunteered in Pony farm and took care of the horses. She was quite a good speaker and was not that hesitant. Unfortunately podcast wasn't that long. But it was a really fun and interesting experience.

Chocolate Cupcakes

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup water or brewed coffee (coffee will enhance the chocolate flavor

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a muffin tin with cupcake liners.

2. In a medium-sized bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.

3. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

4. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the vanilla.

5. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, alternating with the water or coffee. Mix until just combined.

6. Pour the batter into the prepared muffin tin, filling each cup about 2/3 full.

7. Bake for 18-20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the centre of a cupcake comes out clean.

8. Remove from the oven and allow to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Mint Icing

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

- 4 cups powdered sugar, sifted - 2-4 tablespoons water

- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract (adjust to taste)

- A few drops of green food colouring (optional)

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, beat the butter until creamy and smooth.

2. Gradually add the powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, beating well after each addition.

3. Add 2 tablespoons of water and the peppermint extract. Beat until smooth. If the icing is too thick, add more water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until you reach the desired consistency.

4. If desired, add a few drops of green food coloring and mix until the color is uniform.

5. Once the cupcakes are completely cooled, frost them with the mint icing, finally enjoy your chocolate cupcakes with mint icing!

GREEN COLUMN

Making a vermi-bed

This is the second article of the green column I'm doing for this magazine and it's all about worms and making a vermi-bed. So as you may know, if you have read our last issue, I have been thinking about starting a garden and writing about that here on the Kaleidoscope. Last issue was more on my feelings and thoughts about it, but this time someone from Auro Orchard, where I do a small internship thingy, and I talked about a few things (thanks a lot Anshul) and he said I should start by making a vermi-bed for some excellent compost, that is more nutrient rich and filled with great bacteria.

First, a few things to know about worms before you read on, I found these quite helpful and interesting.

There are three different types of worms, but I'll only focus on the two that are used in vermi-composting. There are the epigeic worms which feed on dead plant matter or food scraps and then there's anecic which feed on soil and sometimes the waste from epigeic worms. The anecic worms basically make compost that is alright even better and epigeic worms break down plant matter, or decompose it faster than it would have decomposed. Normally only one species is used in vermi-composting but there have been some experiments with two species that have turned out quite successful so that's what I'm doing and showing here.

It's better to use worms native to where you live as they will be better adapted to that climate and those conditions.

Where Should They Live?

So there are a couple options on containers or habitats for your worms to live in but I'm using a concrete ring as I actually had one lying around. You could use a basket or a bucket but you just have to keep in mind that it should have an open bottom or some way to let stagnant water out. It should also be protected from the elements either by a tarp, roof, or shaded area. With the shaded area you should probably still have a tarp in place so it doesn't get too wet and if you have just a tarp it should be mostly protected from the sun as you don't want it to overheat. To avoid stagnant water there is also a certain order or system to layer the materials you put in your container or habitat that I'll get to now.

Why Maggots Can Appear

When there is to much food for the worms and therefor other critters come as it needs to be eaten

When the food doesn't have enough carbon in it Carbon rich foods include any dead plant matter that has decayed

The soil is too wet.

Worm Needs:

Food availability, all at once, or at regular intervals.

Adequate aeration, loose, not compact. Worms need to breathe.

Good moisture levels, 50 to 80%.NOT MUDDY! A good way to estimate the moisture is to take a fistful of the soil and squeeze it. If a few drops come out, your soil has around 50% moisture.

How And Where To Get Worms

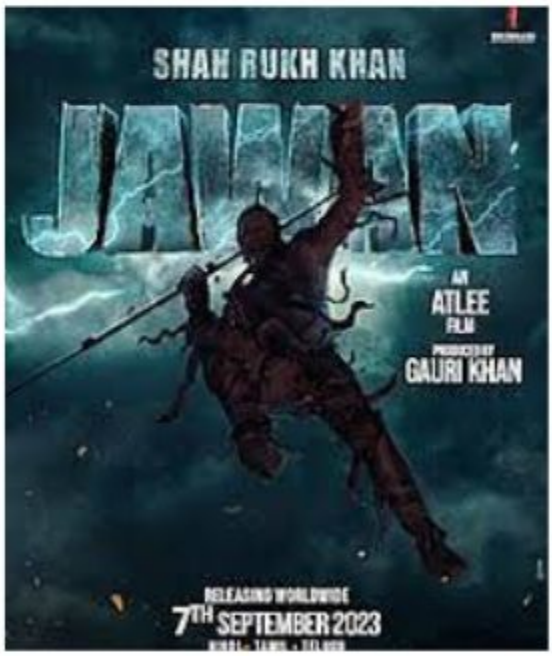
Once you find a patch of worms; normally in aerated soil that is shaded and nutrient rich, you can either scoop them up carefully if they are surface level, or if you can't find any you could lure them by digging shallow a pit with cow manure and leaves or other mulch. If you water it for a week or two you should have as many as you need

Implementation

Once you have some ready vermi-compost you can just mix it in with the soil, or put it in if you dig some holes for saplings.

MOVIE CORNER

So the movie Jawan, is a hindi movie starring Shah Rukh Khan, Vijay Sethupathi and Nayanthara. I really liked the movie, and I think I will watch it again if my relatives watch it. Anyway the things I like about this movie is that it has a mix of comedy, action and drama, one more thing that makes it so nice is that some dialogues and instances are to do with Shah Rukh Khan's previous, iconic movies. These are some of the things I loved about the movie. Here is the brief summary of the plot (Don't worry i won't spoil too much)



The story revolves around the revenge plot of the father and son who were falsely accused of betraying the country by the villain, there are many interesting suspense and thrilling moments which you should go and enjoy by yourself. It also has a nice meaning to stop India's corruption. There are a few scenes which make you empathize a lot. The last thing that makes this movie special is the effect of SRK.

Poetry

Sprinting by life
Feeling some fear
I'm holding a knife
These feelings aren't clear

I want to slow down Yet my brakes are broken
I want to take control But I don't have the notion
I'm having some moments Where time seems to hold it
But they're only for a second, then the clock keeps ticking
Faster and faster Time is running away
I have a will But I don't have a way
I want the break the clock But that won't help

Tickety-Tock My mind keeps racing
Will it race forever Or only a marathon?
I may never know If this keeps going on

Tockety-tick This feels like a kick Like living in the city Your average 9 to 5 But that's not how I live I should start to jive They say I shouldn't be stressed Yet I'm completely messed
Nothing more nothing less

I shouldn't be stressed Yet
I'm completely messed
Nothing more nothing less

Clickety-clack
You say you've got my back
Then why am I falling
This is appalling

I should be fine I heard through the grapevine
Then why does the clock keep screaming

I've got to rush
Or my brain will be mush
I need to rest
I do not joke I do not jest

It feels like a choke
I can not breathe
It's my body telling me
I need to leave

And I think I am
It's just taking a while to pack
All my knicks and my knacks
My hurt and my fear
All this change that is not dear
The insecurity, the scars
Almost behind bars

This seems to dark for me
But I don't know what I like to see
I have this mark on me v
Like a bite
Not a shark
But not something nice

-Oli